

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

November 17, 1997

Business Meeting

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for the regular business meeting in Senate Room B of the General Assembly Building, Richmond, Virginia on Monday, November 17, 1997 with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton
Mrs. Lil Tuttle
Senator J. Brandon Bell
Mr. Rayford Harris, Sr.

Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.
Senator John W. Russell
Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke

Dr. Richard T. La Pointe
Secretary and Superintendent of Public
Instruction

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senator Russell gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Senator Russell made a motion for approval of the minutes of the October 10 meeting. Copies of the minutes had been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Yecke and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board meeting date was changed from November 20 to November 17. Ms. Easton stated that because of the lengthy agenda and the fact that some board members had prior commitments before the board meeting date was changed from the usual Thursday to Monday, all agenda items might not be discussed. A December meeting would need to be scheduled to address any remaining agenda items since the materials arrived too late for

Board members to review them before the meeting.

With the understanding that the agenda will be modified, Mrs. Yecke made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Senator Russell seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

HIGHLIGHT ON STUDENTS

Mr. Larry Hoover, Superintendent of Gloucester County Schools introduced Ms. Pamela McAlister, Choral Director, and the Bethel Elementary School ASinging Bears@to the Board and public.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Yecke made a motion to adopt the following items on the consent agenda.

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans
Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List
Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Loan Fund

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of seven new applications and two supplemental applications in the amount of \$27,853,690 subject to final approval by the office of the Attorney General, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
King William County	Hamilton Holmes Middle	\$5,000,000.00
Nelson County	Rockfish River Elementary	5,000,000.00
Washington County	Watauga Elementary	960,100.00
Campbell County	Tomahawk Elementary	4,187,800.00
Suffolk City	Central Elementary	5,000,000.00
Hanover County	South Anna Elementary	2,080,000.00
Giles County	Macy McClaugherty	4,000,000.00
Accomack County	Tangier Combined School	1,178,162.00

Accomack County	Chincoteague Elementary	447,628.00
	TOTAL	\$27,853,690.00

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendation that funding for seven projects in the amount of \$26,227,900 be deferred and the projects placed on the First Priority Waiting List and the two supplemental applications from Accomack County totaling \$1,625,790 be approved and moved to the Second Priority Waiting List, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

First Priority Waiting List

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
King William County	Hamilton Holmes Middle	\$5,000,000.00
Nelson County	Rockfish River Elementary	5,000,000.00
Washington County	Watauga Elementary	960,100.00
Campbell County	Tomahawk Elementary	4,187,800.00
Suffolk City	Central Elementary	5,000,000.00
Hanover County	South Anna Elementary	2,080,000.00
Giles County	Macy McClaugharty	4,000,000.00
	TOTAL	\$26,227,900.00

Second Priority Waiting List

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Accomack County	North Accomack	\$1,178,162.00
Accomack County	South Accomack	447,628.00
	TOTAL	\$1,625,790.00

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Loan Fund

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the financial report on the status

of the Literary Fund as of September 30, 1997, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Ms. Easton apologized to board members for receiving notebooks too late to review all materials before the meeting. Ms. Easton also announced that a meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 16 for items not covered on today's agenda.

Dr. La Pointe explained that The American Sign Language discussion was taken off the agenda because of difficulty in getting materials requested by the board. This topic will possibly be presented at the next board meeting or the January meeting.

Dr. La Pointe announced that a drive-in conference has been scheduled for each of the eight superintendents=regions to provide technical instruction on the Board of Education newly revised *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia*.

Final Approval of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure=s Proposal to Revise Licensure Regulations for School Personnel and Proposed Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel

Dr. George Conway, Chair of ABTEL, said that the proposed revisions in the licensure regulations will: (1) align the licensure requirements with the *Standards of Learning*, (2) establish a statewide licensure system and continue to provide flexibility for the approved teachers=education programs; and (3) reduce the number of endorsements from the current 104 licensure areas to fifty-one. Major revisions proposed include the requirement of a 21-semester-hour concentration in the core areas of mathematics, science, English, or history/social science for the middle school education endorsement; additional requirements in language acquisition and reading for individuals seeking endorsement in Early/primary PreK-3, Elementary PreK-6, middle school education, and special education; special education endorsements in mild to moderate disabilities and moderate to severe disabilities; and a combined endorsement in administration and supervision. The proposed regulations also expand the technical professional license to include individuals with or without a baccalaureate degree who have demonstrated academic proficiency and technical competency and who have completed occupational experience.

Mrs. Tuttle said that she was disappointed that the proposal does not require middle and high school teachers to have a minor in the area they are planning to teach. Mrs. Tuttle also said that the most common complaint after the *Standards of Learning* came out was that

teachers needed professional development on the content of the SOLs.

Dr. Elliott said that the requirement that an individual seeking a license in Virginia must have an academic major would continue with the new regulations. The academic major and a 21-semester-hour concentration in two of the four academic areas at the middle school level should address the complaint regarding the need for professional development on the content of the SOLs.

Mrs. Yecke requested Dr. Elliott to get copies of the old and new licensure regulations to the Board members for comparison.

Final Approval of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education=s Technology Regulations for Instructional Personnel

Dr. Thomas Elliott said that the technology standards received favorable support during the public hearing. When considering the technology proposal, ABTEL requested the Board of Education to recommend that the proficiency of the standards be determined by local school boards and not be contingent upon renewal of teachers= license.

There was a lengthy discussion on steps that must be taken in the Administrative Process Act before completing adoption of the technology regulations and it was suggested that staff training might prevent future problems with missed deadlines in the area.

The Board received for discussion the final proposal of the Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel.

Final Review of the 1997 Annual Report on the Status of Public Education in the Commonwealth of Virginia

The Board members agreed to hold this item for the December meeting. Because this item has a deadline date of November 15, 1997, Mrs. Yecke suggested sending a letter to the Governor and members of the General Assembly to let them know that it will be late.

Final Review of Criteria for Teacher Removal of Disruptive Students

The Board decided to hold this item until the December meeting.

Update on Proposed Revisions to the Literary Loan Fund

The Board decided to hold this item until the December meeting.

Review of Legislative Issues for the 1998 General Assembly

The Board decided to hold this item until the December meeting.

Review of Skills for the SOL Tests Blueprints

The Board decided to hold this item until the December meeting.

Discussion on Options for Permitting Non-Public School Students to take the LPT and SOL Tests

The Board decided to hold this item until the December meeting. Ms. Easton requested that a resolution be included for the Board.

Discussion of Report Card

The Board decided to hold this item until the December meeting.

Update and Discussion of School Choice

Greg Vanerick (Charter Schools)

Greg Vanerick, a research fellow at the Hudson Institute, Washington, D.C., reported on charter schools. Mr. Vanerick, along with other members of his research team, has been studying charter schools for the past two years. They have made site visits to sixty charter schools in fourteen states and interviewed more than 1,000 people, including principals, students, teachers, parents, community members and local school board members. Mr. Vanerick has drafted a very comprehensive report on the issue of charter schools from all over the nation and the progress being made on them.

Mr. Vanerick reported that: (1) A charter school is an independent public school of choice, given a charter for a specified period (typically five years), to educate children according to the schools own design with minimum bureaucratic oversight, (2) Charter schools are held accountable to the terms of its charter, which is a legal document, and may continue to exist only if it fulfills those terms, and (3) Charter schools are paid for with tax dollars, open to all who choose to attend regardless of race, ethnicity or religious belief or socio-economic status.

According to Mr. Vanerick, strong charter school laws should have the following characteristics: (1) Multiply sponsors, (2) Given a blanket waiver from many state and local rules, (3) Allow any individual, group or organization to submit a charter proposal, (4) Given

control over their own budget, curriculum and hiring, (5) No limit on the number of charter schools in the state, (6) Permits a variety of individuals, including those without conventional certification, to teach in charter schools, and (7) Guarantees full per pupil funding.

Senator Bell said the Virginia Constitution would not allow charter schools to have multiple sponsors because the Constitution states that local school boards shall be the governing board over local schools.

Mrs. Yecke said that when charter school legislation was brought up in the General Assembly a number of peers said charter schools would result in white flight and a resegregation of schools. Mr. Vanerick stated that a national study done with fifty schools in ten states showed that charter schools are enrolling more minorities than regular public schools.

Mrs. Tuttle requested information on the size of charter schools. Mr. Vanerick stated that there is no prototype of charter schools, some are large and some are small. The Federal Department of Education, in a study, found that most charter schools are a lot smaller than regular schools.

Mr. Vanerick also reported on *Private Scholarship Plans*. There are more than thirty private scholarship programs in the country that individuals and businesses privately fund. The first private scholarship plan, *Educational Choice Charitable Trust*, was launched in Indianapolis. It enrolls 1,000 students and gives half the tuition at a private school for low income families.

Pat Grigsby (Loudoun County Tax Equity Committee)

Mrs. Grigsby serves on the Loudoun County Tax Equity Committee with eight other citizens. The purpose of the committee was to look at Loudoun's tax structure and the services it provides and attempt to make the system better, fairer, and less costly to the average tax payer.

The Loudoun Private Schooling Tax Credit is specifically tailored to Loudoun's unique circumstances of rapid residential growth and its upper-middle income demographics. The proposal differs from most other school choice efforts currently in place in the United States.

It is not a voucher but a tax credit. The tax credit proposed by the committee is a \$1,250 credit per child with a limit of \$3,000 per family. This would pay half the tuition at the least expensive private schools and a quarter of the expense at the more expensive private schools.

The \$1,250 would be credited against personal property taxes upon presentation of tuition receipts and certificate of completion. For home schooling families, the credit would be based

on receipts from educational materials. This credit represents a partnership between the parent and the county.

Pete Hutchinson (Vouchers and Scholarships)

Pete Hutchinson is the general council of the Landmark Legal Foundation. The Landmark Legal Foundation headquarters is in Kansas City with an office also in Herndon, Virginia. The Landmark Legal Foundation has been involved in school choice since 1990.

Mr. Hutchinson described a voucher as a government-funded grant given to a student and his or her family for use at a qualifying public or private school. He said it was not as sophisticated as a charter school. It does not require starting a new school, it involves allowing a child access to a school already in place that is working and educating. It is up to the state legislator to start a *Student Opportunity Scholarship*. When determining the eligibility for a *Student Opportunity Scholarship*, wealthy Americans already have school choice, as do middle class Americans, but low income Americans do not. Therefore, *Student Opportunity Scholarships* should be aimed at students and families with low incomes.

Mr. Hutchinson said according to the Virginia State Constitution, vouchers would be legal in Virginia. He did an overview of the following provisions that are applicable to support vouchers in Virginia: Section 1 of Article VIII, Section 5 and Subsection E of Article VIII, Section 9 of Article VIII, and Section 10 of Article VIII.

Report on Summer Remedial Education Survey

The Board accepted the report on the Summer Remediation Survey.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following persons spoke during the public comment period:

James Murphy
Dr. Thomas Smith
Dr. Jane Massey-Wilson
Roxanne Grossman

First Review of the Linwood Holton Governor=s School

The Board accepted the first review of request for the A. Linwood Holton Governor=s

School. Governor Linwood Holton made a brief presentation to the Board of Education.

Report from the Commonwealth Governor=s School

Mr. Jimmy Chancey requested the Board of Education to approve a new time line for the Commonwealth Governor=s School for implementation over a three-year period instead of one year.

Mrs. Yecke made the following motion: I move that we withdraw our approval for this plan until we can be assured of a complete plan that meets with Board approval and has a high level of community support. This Board stands committed in supporting a Governor=s School in this area. This motion is not intended to diminish present funding support. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell. By a show of hands the Board voted to pass the motion:

Ms. Easton - Aye
Mrs. Tuttle - Aye
Mrs. Yecke - Aye
Senator Russell - Aye
Mr. Harris - No

First Review of the Chesapeake Bay Governor=s School

The Board accepted the first review of Chesapeake Bay Governor=s School.

Proposed Legislation to Phase out the LPT

The Board decided to hold this item until the December meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 2:35 p.m.

President